

Pilot - Centralize Injury Compensation Program Why and What Changes?

In September 2012, the U.S. Army Audit Agency (AAA) released Audit Report A-2012-0178-IEE. The report recommended the Army:

- (1) adopt an automated system to assist Injury Compensation Program Administrators (ICPA) with managing their workers' compensation cases and
- (2) centralize the ICPA function and case management at one location.

In February 2013, the Civilian Human Resources Agency (CHRA) will launch a pilot to test centralizing Army's Injury Compensation Program at the Southwest Region Army Benefits Center – Civilian, Fort Riley, Kansas. The pilot will include five locations; Fort Lee, Fort Irwin, Dugway Proving Ground, U.S. Army Research Laboratory and Tobyhanna Army Depot. The Army Benefits Center – Civilian, Injury Compensation Branch (ABC-C ICB) will assume all ICPA responsibilities for customers at those locations. Additional sites may also be added during the pilot.

The Army Injury Compensation Program is based on the Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA). FECA provides compensation benefits to Federal civilian employees who sustain a work-related injury or occupational disease while in the performance of duty. FECA also provides compensation benefits to surviving dependents, if a work-related injury or disease causes the death of an employee. The program is administered by the Department of Labor (DOL), Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP). Decisions to accept or deny claims are made by the Department of Labor, not the employer. When a claim for a work-related injury is submitted to DOL, a case number is generated and the employee receives a letter informing them of their case number and detailing the benefits to which they are entitled.

The ABC-C ICB, with a staff of Human Resources Specialists possessing extensive experience in injury compensation, will assume ICPA responsibilities for the locations participating in the pilot program.

Throughout the pilot, the process of reporting injuries and filing claims remains the same. The employee reports the work related injury to the supervisor. The employee and supervisor complete the applicable portion of the CA-1 for traumatic injury or the CA-2 for occupational illness or disease. The CA-1 or CA-2 is electronically submitted via the Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) to the ABC-C ICB rather than the local ICPA for processing. The ABC-C ICB will be the main point of contact for supervisors and employees for injury compensation. Supervisors and employees will contact the ABC-C ICB at 1-866-792-7620 for assistance instead of the local Civilian Personnel Advisory Center (CPAC) or ICPA.